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For Immediate Release: Monday, November 25, 2013

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BE THANKFUL!!! NO LANE CLOSURES FOR THANKSGIVING

ATLANTA – So that Georgians and those motorists passing through our state can easily arrive at their Thanksgiving holiday destinations, the Department of Transportation is suspending construction-related lane closures on Interstates and major state routes beginning at 12 p.m., Wednesday, November 27, and extending until 9 p.m., Sunday, December 1.

The Department reminds travelers to exercise caution nonetheless as heavy holiday traffic is expected throughout the state. Crews may still be working and heavy equipment may remain staged in close proximity to highways and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency, maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route.

Statewide, Georgia usually logs an average of 3,000 accidents, over 12 deaths and about a thousand injuries on its roads during the Thanksgiving holiday period.

The Department is urging all travelers to be very careful, buckle their seatbelts and to not drive distracted or while impaired so that everyone can have a safe and thankful holiday weekend.

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators to 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. Additionally, 511 is

available online. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, thereby preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, visit 511ga.org. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release RSS feed. You also may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/gadeptoftrans).

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The Georgia DOT spent more than \$19 million in the last three years to mitigate impacts to streams and wetlands. Our employees work hard to deliver quality transportation projects while being sensitive to minimize unavoidable impacts to people, cultural resources, and the natural environment.

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